

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-22 were pending. By way of the present amendment, claims 10, 12, 18, and 20 are cancelled. Claims 1-3, 9, 11, 13-15, 19, and 21 are currently amended. Claims 1-9, 11, 13-17, 19, 21 and 22 are presented for reconsideration. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11, 13, 14, and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Henrici et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,692,308 ("Henrici"). Claims 3, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henrici in view of Morgan et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,989,067. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 15-18 were objected to, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims.

In view of the Examiner's remarks and to expedite allowance of the present application, Applicants have rewritten claim 1 to include the respective features of canceled claims 10, 12, and 18. Applicants have also rewritten claim 3 to address the informality noted by the Examiner. Applicants have also amended claims 2, 3, 13-15, 19, and 21 to conform to the amendments to claim 1 and cancellation of claims 10, 12, 18 and 20.

As rewritten, claim 1 includes the features of claim 18 that the Office Action deemed to be absent from the prior art of record, specifically, at least one clamping spring having a leg having a fastening opening, which matches a fastening opening embodied in the housing parts. It is noted that claim 1 as amended does not include all limitations of claim 2, from which claim 18 depended. However, the features of claim 2 are not believed to be necessary to distinguish over the prior art of record, as reflected by the positions set forth in the initial Office Action.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

4/26/05

By



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